

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-07

AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/PLC-PM:SMQUIGG/ANWILLIAMS:ME

APPROVED BY ARA/LA/PLC-PM;ANWILLIAMS

ARA/NC:TSONANDRES (DRAFT)

ARA/NC:FJDEVINE (DRAFT)

PM/SAS:RSLOTT (DRAFT)

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R 071526Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, VE

SUBJECT: FLAMETHROWERS FOR VENEZUELA

1. IN JULY 1974, THE DEPARTMENT INADVERTENTLY APPROVED AN FMS CASE FOR 30 FLAMETHROWERS FOR VENEZUELA VALUED AT DOLS. 69,000. THIS APPROVAL WAS TRANSMITTED BY STATE TO DEFENSE ON JULY 2, 1974. A LETTER OF OFFER WAS THEN PREPARED AND SUBSEQUENTLY ACCEPTED (ON APRIL 22, 1975) BY THE VENEZUELAN. SUCCESSIVE DELAYS HAVE MOVED DELIVERY DATE TO ABOUT AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

2. IT HAS BEEN LONG-STANDING DEPARTMENT POLICY TO PROHIBIT EXPORT OF INCENDIARY MUNITIONS AND WEAPONS, INCLUDING FLAME-THROWERS, TO LATIN AMERICA. THE 1974 DECISION WAS MADE NOT AS AN EXCEPTION TO POLICY BUT APPARENTLY WITHOUT AWARENESS OF SUCH A POLICY. BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY IN THE U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESS TO THE SALE
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ABROAD OF INCENDIARY WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS, THE DEPARTMENT

DOES NOT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO MAKE A POLICY EXCEPTION FOR VENEZUELA ON THIS MATTER, A DECISION WHICH COULD ALSO LEAD TO REQUESTS FOR SIMILAR WEAPONS FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

3. UNLESS EMBASSY CARACAS HAS OBJECTIONS, WE INTEND, THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS IN WASHINGTON, TO INFORM THE VENEZUELANS OF OUR 1974 ERROR AND OF THE FACT THAT REGIONAL POLICY PRECLUDES THE APPROVAL OF EXPORT OF FLAMETHROWERS TO LATIN AMERICA. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE083502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM:SMQUIGG/ANWILLIAMS:ME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760131-0757
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760487/aaaacvxs.tel
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Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLAMETHROWERS FOR VENEZUELA
TAGS: ESTC, MASS, VE, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
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